

MAR-14-2007 WED 09:13 AM FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL

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Amendments to the Drawings

Attached are replacement drawing sheet(s) for amended
Figure(s) 5 and 6.

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REMARKS

The abstract has been amended in order to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors contained therein. The specification had previously been amended so as not to refer to the claims by number. A copy of the previously filed Amendment Before First Office Action for the specification is attached. No new matter has been added.

In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application and respond to the formal objections made by the Examiner, the abstract is amended to contain a single paragraph, and Figures 5 and 6 are designated by a legend, "Prior Art."

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Document P2000-108128A, Japanese Patent Document S61-57314, Steidl et al., Patent No. 4 684 338, Kubota et al., Patent No. 5 147 656, and Chuchanis, Patent No. 4 863 360. Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejections and urges that the presently claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over the prior art cited by the Examiner.

The prior art discloses the structure which includes a fluid feed/discharge head block having a fluid feed opening arranged above the head block and a fluid discharge opening arranged below the head block, the fluid feed opening and the fluid discharge opening being not arranged on the same plane. However, most of critical features of the present invention are not disclosed in the prior art. First, a head block of a fluid feed/discharge head is divided to obtain a dual-partitioning structure having a lower block and an upper block. Second, a fluid discharge opening formed on the lower block is connected to a discharge hole formed on a bag head. Third, a fluid feed opening formed on the upper block is connected to a feed hole formed on the bag head through a circular groove formed on the upper surface of the lower block or the lower surface of the upper block, and a communicating

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hole passing through the lower block. In such a manner, by dividing the fluid feed/discharge head to obtain the dual-partitioning structure having the lower block and the upper block, the circular groove and the communicating hole for connecting the fluid feed opening and the feed hole are easily formed.

The Japanese Patent Document P2000-108128A does not disclose the critical feature of the present invention that a head block of a fluid feed/discharge head is divided to obtain a dual-partitioning structure having a lower block and an upper block. The Japanese Patent Document P2000-108128A does not have a supply part. The Japanese Patent Document S61-57314 does not disclose the circular groove through which a fluid feed opening is connected to a feed hole, and the communicating hole that is connected to a supply hole and to a circular groove. Although Steidl teaches a machine including a supply/discharge head block, wherein the fluid supply port and the fluid discharge port are not disposed on the same plane, Steidl does not disclose the separate structure for each of the supply port and the discharge port, which can allow the fast supply/discharge and thus the increase in productivity as well as the design flexibility with higher degree of freedom in design. Kubota also does not disclose the separate structure for each of the supply port and the discharge port. Finally, Chuchanis does not also disclose the separate structure for each of the supply port and the discharge port as well as the circular groove through which a fluid feed opening is connected to a feed hole.

As described above, the present invention is completely different from the prior art regarding the structure and functions, and thus has inventive steps with regard to the prior art. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the presently claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

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For the above reasons allowance of Claims is respectfully requested. Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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TFC/HJ/ps

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Encl: Replacement Abstract
Replacement Drawings for Figures 5 and 6
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